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SUMMARY

Agenda Item: C.1.3

Senegal

PRE-POPULARISATION WORK IN SENEGAL

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PRE-POPULARISATION WORK IN SENEGAL

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1. DIRECTION TAKEN BY RESEARCH AT BAMBEY C.R.A.

Research results have repercussions on development targets; their application by farmers has an immediate incidence on the economy of the area in question. Agronomic research in Senegal constantly takes into account the economic consequences which it entails.

2. NEED TO PUT THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

When new techniques have been evolved, it is important to provide the means of putting them into practice and adapting them to the farmers' means.

A liaison body was set up in Bambey in 1961, the Department for Application of Research to Popularisation (S.A.R.V.). Its role is to summarise research results in order to select the solutions suited to each individual case and reconcile research to practice.

3. METHOD FOR MAKING RESEARCH RESULTS AVAILABLE TO FARMERS

S.A.R.V. must simultaneously carry experiments to their logical conclusion and maintain constant contact with popularisation services; it goes up to the pre-popularisation stage in rural areas and informs country people of the technical means available; it suggests the planting of trial grounds demonstrating cultivation techniques or pilot areas.

Numerous trial grounds, prepared, followed up and interpreted, have been planted at the Regional Stations, and a trial system operated in a number of areas constitutes the final approach before popularisation; it ensures dissemination of techniques in traditional surroundings.

Some difficulties are encountered, primarily because of the agrarian structure and to the system of land tenure, and secondly because

of the very low income of rural producers and the resultant difficulties in obtaining direct access to credit.

Agricultural development thus depends on the joint functioning of popularisation, co-operation and agricultural credit; it also depends on sufficiently close supervision.

4. PRE-POPULARISATION PLANS AND PROCEDURES FOR DEMONSTRATION TRIALS IN TRADITIONAL RURAL SURROUNDINGS.

The aims having been defined, a programme has been drawn up at Ministerial level by representatives of the Rural Economy, Agricultural Management, Regional Inspectors and the C.R.A.

Planting sites were chosen on basis of the personnel available there and the studies on rural economy undertaken by the Agricultural Services.

It was decided that the demonstration grounds must be on the farmer's land and planted by the farmer himself, to give him a direct interest in the matter.

Popularisation programmes relate to:

Improvement in quantity produced,

permanent fertility,

improvement in quality,

protection of crops and livestock,

marketing and preparation of produce.

Two series of trials were suggested: a very simple one dealing only with millet (soil cultivation, density, organic and inorganic fertilisers) and a more complicated one comprising four-yearly rotation with different degrees of inorganic fertilisation.

5. MISCELLANEOUS WORK, PROPAGANDA

Publication of results in simple form by local Agricultural Services.

Contacts with personnel and supervisors,

Training of instructors at the C.R.A.,

Demonstration of dultivation and machinery techniques,

Press and radio propaganda,

Preparation of a simple manual on practical agricultural methods for use by field supervisors.

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